

Industrial Solid Waste Fact Sheet

Chemically Treated Wood- Category 16

Definition

Treated wood contains chemical preservatives (i.e., pesticides) to inhibit decay and extend the life of wood products. While treating wood lengthens its useful life up to 20 or 30 times longer than untreated wood in outdoor environments, some of the chemicals used in treating wood are hazardous to human health and the environment. To reduce the potential for treated wood products to have an adverse impact on human health and the environment, it is absolutely necessary to select, use, and dispose of treated wood products safely and appropriately.

Special Disposal Conditions

Chemically Treated Wood is accepted for disposal at Olmsted County's Kalmar Landfill or Waste-to-Energy Facility depending on the chemical characteristics of the treated wood.

Generator Requirements

Businesses generating treated wood waste must evaluate the waste to determine if it must be managed as hazardous waste. A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation Form must be on file with the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department and an Industrial Solid Waste Tracking form must accompany each load for disposal.

Procedures

Typical Delivery types

- flatbed trailers
- roll-off boxes

Background

Treated wood contains chemical preservatives (i.e., pesticides) to inhibit decay and extend the life of wood products. While treating wood lengthens its useful life up to 20 or 30 times longer than untreated wood in outdoor environments, some of the chemicals used in treating wood are hazardous to human health and the environment. To reduce the potential for treated wood products to have an adverse impact on human health and the environment, it is absolutely necessary to select, use, and dispose of treated wood products safely and appropriately. The most common type of wood treatment involves saturating wood under high pressure in one of the following four chemical compounds: pentachlorophenol (PCP), typically used for utility poles; creosote, a tar-like substance used for railroad ties and construction pilings; copper chromium arsenic (CCA) or other arsenical preservatives containing arsenic and heavy metals; and other copper-containing treatments, such as

ammoniacal copper quaternary (ACQ), copper azole, or ammoniacal copper citrate, which are formulated with less-toxic materials. As of December 31, 2003, the pressure-treated wood industry discontinued the use of CCA as the primary wood preservative used for most general consumer construction purposes. Minnesota Statutes, section 88.171, prohibits the open burning of chemically-treated wood products.

Disposal

The waste material will be directed to the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill or the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF). Disposal of treated wood waste in demolition landfills is prohibited, since an unlined demolition landfill provides insufficient protection of ground water resources.

Testing Requirements

Businesses generating treated wood waste must evaluate the waste to determine if it is to be managed as hazardous waste. Treated wood originating from demolished structures is exempt from the hazardous waste requirements. Generators may not, however, mix the treated wood waste with other demolition waste. Treated wood waste, other than wood from demolished structures, must be evaluated for toxicity using the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). This testing is required to ensure 1) the waste material is not a regulated hazardous waste and 2) the waste material is acceptable for disposal at an Olmsted County solid waste management facility. If available, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be provided.

Documentation

A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation Form must be on file with the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department. The waste hauler must present a current, approved Non-Hazardous Industrial Solid Waste Tracking Form at the time of delivery. Olmsted County does, however, exempt generators of less than 10 cubic yards of treated wood waste from the aforementioned documentation requirements.

Special Generator Requirements

If necessary, special generator requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.